

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,**

**Plaintiff,**

**-- against --**

**APOSTOLOS TROVIAS,**

**Defendant.**

**21 Civ. 5925 (ER)**

**ECF Case**

**COMPLAINT  
AND JURY DEMAND**

**CONSENT OF DEFENDANT APOSTOLOS TROVIAS  
TO FINAL JUDGMENT**

1. Defendant Apostolos Trovias ("Defendant") waives service of a summons and the complaint in this action, enters a general appearance, and admits the Court's jurisdiction over Defendant and over the subject matter of this action.

2. Defendant has pleaded guilty to criminal conduct relating to certain matters alleged in the complaint in this action. Specifically, in *United States v. Apostolos Trovias*, 21 Crim. 378 (JFK) (S.D.N.Y.), Defendant pleaded guilty to a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1348 and 2 ("Securities and Commodities Fraud"). In connection with that plea, Defendant admitted the facts set out in the transcript of his plea allocution that is attached as Exhibit A to this Consent to Final Judgment ("Final Consent"). This Final Consent shall remain in full force and effect regardless of the existence or outcome of any further proceedings in *United States v. Trovias*.

3. Defendant hereby consents to the entry of the final Judgment in the form attached hereto (the "Final Judgment") and incorporated by reference herein, which, among other things:

- a) permanently restrains and enjoins Defendant from (i) violating Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5];

- b) permanently restraining and enjoining Defendant, his agents, servants, employees, and attorneys and other persons in active concert or participation with him who receive actual notice of the injunction by personal service or otherwise from establishing and/or operating any website that permits the offer, sale, or purchase of nonpublic information concerning the issuers of publicly traded securities; and
- c) orders Defendant to pay disgorgement in the amount of \$5,320, plus prejudgment interest thereon in the amount of \$1,382.49; to be deemed satisfied by the criminal judgment (DE 18) and forfeiture order (DE 19) entered by the Court in *United States v. Trovias*.

4. Defendant waives the entry of findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Rule 52 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

5. Defendant waives the right, if any, to a jury trial and to appeal from the entry of the Final Judgment.

6. Defendant enters into this Consent voluntarily and represents that no threats, offers, promises, or inducements of any kind have been made by the Commission or any member, officer, employee, agent, or representative of the Commission to induce Defendant to enter into this Consent.

7. Defendant agrees that this Consent shall be incorporated into the Final Judgment with the same force and effect as if fully set forth therein.

8. Defendant will not oppose the enforcement of the Final Judgment on the ground, if any exists, that it fails to comply with Rule 65(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and hereby waives any objection based thereon.

9. Defendant waives service of the Final Judgment and agrees that entry of the Final Judgment by the Court and filing with the Clerk of the Court will constitute notice to Defendant of its terms and conditions. Defendant further agrees to provide counsel for the Commission, within thirty days after the Final Judgment is filed with the Clerk of the Court, with an affidavit or declaration stating that Defendant has received and read a copy of the Final Judgment.

10. Consistent with 17 C.F.R. 202.5(f), this Consent resolves only the claims asserted against Defendant in this civil proceeding. Defendant acknowledges that no promise or representation has been made by the Commission or any member, officer, employee, agent, or representative of the Commission with regard to any criminal liability that may have arisen or may arise from the facts underlying this action or immunity from any such criminal liability. Defendant waives any claim of Double Jeopardy based upon the settlement of this proceeding, including the imposition of any remedy or civil penalty herein. Defendant further acknowledges that the Court's entry of a permanent injunction may have collateral consequences under federal or state law and the rules and regulations of self-regulatory organizations, licensing boards, and other regulatory organizations. Such collateral consequences include, but are not limited to, a statutory disqualification with respect to membership or participation in, or association with a member of, a self-regulatory organization. This statutory disqualification has consequences that are separate from any sanction imposed in an administrative proceeding. In addition, in any disciplinary proceeding before the Commission based on the entry of the injunction in this action, Defendant understands that he shall not be permitted to contest the factual allegations of the complaint in this action.

11. Defendant understands and agrees to comply with the terms of 17 C.F.R. § 202.5(e), which provides in part that it is the Commission's policy "not to permit a defendant or

respondent to consent to a judgment or order that imposes a sanction while denying the allegations in the complaint or order for proceedings." As part of Defendant's agreement to comply with the terms of Section 202.5(e), Defendant acknowledges the guilty plea for related conduct described in paragraph 2 above, and: (i) will not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement denying, directly or indirectly, any allegation in the complaint or creating the impression that the complaint is without factual basis; (ii) will not make or permit to be made any public statement to the effect that Defendant does not admit the allegations of the complaint, or that this Consent contains no admission of the allegations(iii) upon the filing of this Consent, Defendant hereby withdraws any papers filed in this action to the extent that they deny any allegation in the complaint; and (iv) stipulates for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §523, that the allegations in the complaint are true, and further, that any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or other amounts due by Defendant under the Final Judgment or any other judgment, order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Defendant of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §523(a)(19). If Defendant breaches this agreement, the Commission may petition the Court to vacate the Final Judgment and restore this action to its active docket. Nothing in this paragraph affects Defendant's: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which the Commission is not a party.

12. Defendant hereby waives any rights under the Equal Access to Justice Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, or any other provision of law to seek from the United States, or any agency, or any official of the United States acting in his or

her official capacity, directly or indirectly, reimbursement of attorney's fees or other fees, expenses, or costs expended by Defendant to defend against this action. For these purposes, Defendant agrees that Defendant is not the prevailing party in this action since the parties have reached a good faith settlement.

13. Defendant agrees that the Commission may present the Final Judgment to the Court for signature and entry without further notice.

14. Defendant agrees that this Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter for the purpose of enforcing the terms of the Final Judgment.

Dated: 05/19/2022

Apostolos Trovias

Apostolos Trovias

On \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, \_\_\_\_\_, a person known to me, personally appeared before me and acknowledged executing the foregoing Consent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Commission expires:

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel Scott Cornish  
Calcagni Kanefsky LLP  
85 Broad Street, Suite 17031  
New York, NY 10004  
(862) 397-1796  
*Attorney for Defendant*

## **EXHIBIT A**

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----x

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

21 Cr. 378 (JFK)

5 APOSTOLOS TROVIAS,  
6 a/k/a "The Bull,"

7 Defendant.

Plea and Sentence

-----x

8 New York, N.Y.  
9 April 14, 2022  
10 11:15 a.m.

11 Before:

12 HON. LORETTA A. PRESKA,

13 District Judge

14 APPEARANCES

15 DAMIAN WILLIAMS

16 United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

17 BY: ANDREW M. THOMAS  
18 Assistant United States Attorney

19 CALCAGNI & KANEFSKY, LLP  
Attorneys for Defendant

20 BY: THOMAS R. CALCAGNI

21 Also Present: Ellie Koteas, Interpreter (Greek)  
22 Special Agent Zachary Williams, FBI

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1 THE COURT: Would you be seated.

2 United States v. Trovias.

3 Is the government ready?

4 MR. THOMAS: Yes, your Honor.

5 Good morning. Andrew Thomas on behalf of the United  
6 States. I'm joined today by Special Agent Zachary Williams.

7 THE COURT: Good morning.

8 Is the defense ready?

9 MR. CALCAGNI: We are, your Honor.

10 Good morning. Tom Calcagni from the law firm of  
11 Calcagni & Kanefsky for Mr. Trovias, who is to my left.

12 THE COURT: Good morning.

13 Good morning, sir.

14 Counsel, am I correct that you folks have determined  
15 that Mr. Trovias wishes to change his plea?

16 MR. CALCAGNI: That's correct, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Sir, would you stand and raise your right  
18 hand.

19 Do you solemnly swear that the answers you will give  
20 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth,  
21 so help you God?

22 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I swear.

23 THE COURT: Sir, do you understand that you're under  
24 oath and that if you answer my questions falsely, your answers  
25 may later be used against you in a prosecution for perjury or



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1 the making of a false statement?

2 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

3 THE COURT: How old are you, sir?

4 THE DEFENDANT (in English): 31.

5 THE COURT: Where were you born?

6 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I was born in Larisa,  
7 Greece.

8 THE COURT: Are you a citizen of the United States?

9 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No, I'm not.

10 THE COURT: How far did you go in school, sir?

11 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I have finished high  
12 school, and I went to college, but I haven't finished college.

13 THE COURT: Sir, if you would like to sit down so that  
14 you're closer to that microphone.

15 And counsel, if it's all right with you, I'll ask  
16 Mr. Trovias if he wants to take his mask off so he can be  
17 heard.

18 MR. CALCAGNI: Thank you, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

20 Sir, I asked you how far you went in school. Would  
21 you repeat that answer again, please.

22 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes. I have finished  
23 high school, and I went to college, but I haven't finished  
24 college.

25 THE COURT: Thank you.

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1 And do you read, write, speak and understand English?

2 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I do.

3 THE COURT: I'll note for the record that we have our  
4 Greek interpreter here today so that, sir, if you ever need her  
5 to say something for you, let us know.

6 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

7 THE COURT: I note that she is interpreting  
8 simultaneously.

9 Now, sir, are you currently or have you recently been  
10 under the care of a doctor or a psychiatrist?

11 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No.

12 THE COURT: Have you been hospitalized or treated  
13 recently for alcoholism, narcotic addiction --

14 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No.

15 THE COURT: -- or any other type of drug abuse?

16 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No.

17 THE COURT: Have you ever been treated for any form of  
18 mental illness?

19 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No.

20 THE COURT: And do you feel well enough to understand  
21 what you're doing here in court today?

22 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

23 THE COURT: Are you currently under the influence of  
24 any substance such as alcohol, drugs, or any medication --

25 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No, I'm not.

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1 THE COURT: -- that might affect your ability to  
2 understand what you're doing here in court today?

3 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No, I'm not.

4 THE COURT: Very well.

5 Sir, have you gone over a copy of the indictment  
6 against you, 21 Cr. 378?

7 (Counsel conferred with defendant)

8 THE COURT: Do you have a copy of it, sir?

9 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I have the written  
10 one.

11 THE COURT: And have you gone over it with your  
12 attorney?

13 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, we did.

14 THE COURT: And has your attorney explained to you the  
15 charges against you?

16 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, he did.

17 THE COURT: And have you told your attorney everything  
18 you know about the matters that are set out in the indictment?

19 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I did.

20 THE COURT: You didn't hold anything back from him,  
21 did you, sir?

22 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No, I didn't.

23 THE COURT: Very well.

24 Counsel, do I correctly understand that there is an  
25 agreement between the defendant and the government, which is

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1 dated April 5, 2022?

2 MR. THOMAS: Yes, your Honor. I have the original in  
3 hand.

4 THE COURT: Would you hand it up, please.

5 -- and which has been signed April 5, 2022. Is that  
6 right?

7 MR. THOMAS: That's correct, your Honor. And I note  
8 for the record Mr. Trovias, in his dating of his signature --

9 THE COURT: Yes.

10 MR. THOMAS: -- used the European convention.

11 THE COURT: Exactly.

12 May I ask the government to summarize, please, the  
13 terms and conditions of the agreement.

14 MR. THOMAS: Yes, your Honor.

15 Pursuant to the agreement, the government would not  
16 further prosecute Mr. Trovias for his involvement in the online  
17 sale of securities frauds -- in exchange for his online sale of  
18 material nonpublic information in connection with the  
19 securities fraud scheme, that is.

20 In exchange for his plea of guilty to Count One of the  
21 indictment, the parties also set out a stipulated guidelines  
22 range which the parties discussed and agreed would cover but  
23 not mandate a sentence of time served; and that, further, the  
24 parties acknowledge that Mr. Trovias has been in the custody of  
25 Peru pending extradition in this matter for a number of months

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1 and that that time ought to be credited or recognized by the  
2 Court in considering its sentence.

3 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

4 Mr. Trovias, are those the terms and conditions of the  
5 agreement as you understand them?

6 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes. Yes, they are.

7 THE COURT: And sir, do you understand that in this  
8 agreement, you and the government have agreed to a stipulated  
9 guidelines range of 10 to 16 months?

10 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

11 THE COURT: And sir, do you recall that in this  
12 agreement, you have agreed not to appeal or otherwise litigate  
13 a sentence that is within or below that 10- to 16-month range?

14 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I agree with that.

15 THE COURT: Sir, have you had enough time to discuss  
16 the agreement and to talk it over with your lawyer and to have  
17 all of your questions answered?

18 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I did.

19 THE COURT: Sir, I'm holding up the original of the  
20 agreement, and I'm turning to the last page. Is that your  
21 signature over there on the left-hand side under the words  
22 "agreed and consented to"?

23 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, it is.

24 THE COURT: And am I correct, sir, that your  
25 willingness to offer to plead guilty is, in part, a result of

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1 this agreement between you and the government?

2 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, it is.

3 THE COURT: Counsel, are there any additional  
4 agreements between the government and the defendant which are  
5 not set forth in the written plea agreement?

6 MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, the plea agreement references  
7 but does not expressly incorporate the terms of a consent order  
8 of forfeiture. The parties have also executed a copy of that  
9 referenced document, and I can present that to the Court.

10 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

11 And counsel, you agree with the government's  
12 statement, correct?

13 MR. CALCAGNI: I do, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 Other than that, there are no agreements that are not  
16 set forth, correct?

17 MR. THOMAS: That's correct, your Honor.

18 MR. CALCAGNI: Correct, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Thank you.

20 The agreement is acceptable to the Court.

21 Mr. Trovias, have you been induced to offer to plead  
22 guilty as a result of any fear, pressure, threat or force of  
23 any kind?

24 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No. It was my -- it was  
25 my own choice, your Honor.

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1           THE COURT: Have you been induced to offer to plead  
2 guilty as a result of any statements by anyone, other than in  
3 your written plea agreement, to the effect that you'd get  
4 special consideration or special leniency or some kind of  
5 special treatment if you pleaded guilty rather than going to  
6 trial?

7           THE DEFENDANT (in English): No.

8           THE COURT: And sir, do you understand that you have  
9 the right to continue in your plea of not guilty and proceed to  
10 trial?

11          THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I know that.

12          THE COURT: And do you understand that if you do not  
13 plead guilty, you have a right to a speedy and public trial by  
14 a jury of 12 persons?

15          THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I understand that.

16          THE COURT: Do you understand that you have the right  
17 to be represented by an attorney at trial and at every stage of  
18 the proceedings, including an appeal, and if you cannot afford  
19 an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you free of  
20 charge?

21          THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

22          THE COURT: Sir, do you understand that if your plea  
23 of guilty is accepted, there will be no further trial of any  
24 kind?

25          THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

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1 THE COURT: Do you understand that if you pleaded not  
2 guilty and went to trial, upon such a trial, you would be  
3 presumed innocent unless and until the government proved your  
4 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt to all 12 jurors?

5 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

6 THE COURT: Do you understand that at such a trial,  
7 you would have the right to confront and cross-examine all of  
8 the witnesses called by the government against you?

9 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

10 THE COURT: And sir, do you understand that upon such  
11 a trial, you could remain silent, and no inference could be  
12 drawn against you by reason of your silence, or if you wanted  
13 to, you could take the stand and testify in your own defense?

14 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

15 THE COURT: Do you understand that at such a trial,  
16 you would have the right to subpoena witnesses and evidence for  
17 your own defense?

18 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I didn't understand this  
19 question.

20 THE COURT: Certainly. Let me try it again.

21 Do you understand that if you decided to go to trial,  
22 you could issue a subpoena and require witnesses to show up at  
23 trial and evidence to be produced at trial?

24 Do you understand that, sir?

25 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I understand that.



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1 THE COURT: Do you understand that if your offer to  
2 plead guilty is accepted, you give up these rights with respect  
3 to these charges against you, and the Court may impose sentence  
4 just as though a verdict of guilty had been brought in against  
5 you?

6 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

7 THE COURT: Sir, do you understand that if you wanted  
8 to, and if the government agreed, you could have a trial before  
9 a judge without a jury, in which event the burden of proof  
10 would still be on the government, and you would still have the  
11 same constitutional rights?

12 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I understand.

13 THE COURT: Sir, do you understand that upon your plea  
14 of guilty to Count One, the Court has the power to impose upon  
15 you a maximum period of imprisonment of 25 years; a maximum  
16 period of supervised release of five years; a maximum fine of  
17 the greatest of \$250,000, twice the gross pecuniary gain  
18 derived from the offense or twice the gross pecuniary loss  
19 resulting from the offense; together with a \$100 mandatory  
20 special assessment?

21 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I understand.

22 THE COURT: And sir, do you also understand that in  
23 this agreement you have agreed to forfeit the proceeds of the  
24 crime in the amount of \$6,700?

25 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I agree.

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1 THE COURT: Sir, do you also understand that if the  
2 terms and conditions of supervised release are violated, you  
3 may be required to serve an additional period of imprisonment,  
4 which is equal to the period of supervised release, with no  
5 credit for time already spent on supervised release?

6 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I understand.

7 THE COURT: Sir, have you discussed the sentencing  
8 guidelines with your attorney?

9 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, we did.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 I understand that both parties agree in this case to  
12 dispense with the presentence report. But do you understand  
13 that you're not required to agree to dispense with it?

14 Do you understand that?

15 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I understand that, yes.

16 THE COURT: And do you also understand that you have a  
17 right to a presentence report if you want one?

18 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

19 THE COURT: And am I correct that in this instance,  
20 you, after talking with your lawyer, have decided that there's  
21 no need for a presentence report?

22 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Correct.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 Sir, do you understand that in determining a sentence,  
25 it's the Court's obligation to calculate the applicable

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1 sentencing guidelines range and then to consider that range,  
2 possible departures from that range under the guidelines, and  
3 other sentencing factors set out in the statute, 18 U.S.C.  
4 Section 3553(a)?

5 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

6 THE COURT: And sir, do you understand that under some  
7 circumstances, as set forth in your plea agreement, you or the  
8 government might have the right to appeal whatever sentence is  
9 imposed?

10 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Uh --

11 THE COURT: Do you want that one again?

12 THE DEFENDANT (in English): About a sentence that's  
13 not in the range, or it's outside of the range, or it's --

14 THE COURT: Right. All I'm asking you is whether you  
15 understand that you or the government might have the right to  
16 appeal whatever sentence is imposed.

17 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I understand.

18 THE COURT: And we went over the fact that, in your  
19 plea agreement, you have agreed that you will not appeal or  
20 otherwise litigate a sentence that is within or below that 10-  
21 to 16-month range. Remember that?

22 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

23 THE COURT: All right then.

24 Now, sir, do you also understand that parole has been  
25 abolished, so if you're sentenced to prison, you will not be

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1 released on parole?

2 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

3 THE COURT: Do you understand that you will not be  
4 able to withdraw your plea on the ground that your lawyer's  
5 prediction or anybody else's prediction as to the applicable  
6 sentencing guidelines range or as to the actual sentence turns  
7 out not to be correct?

8 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I understand that.

9 THE COURT: Do you understand that the offense to  
10 which you are pleading guilty is a felony?

11 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

12 THE COURT: And sir, do you understand that because  
13 you are not a citizen of the United States, your plea in this  
14 case and your conviction make it very likely that your removal  
15 from the United States is presumptively mandatory, and, at a  
16 minimum, you will incur adverse immigration consequences from  
17 your plea?

18 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

19 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

20 Are you fully satisfied with the advice, counsel and  
21 representation given to you by your attorney, Mr. Calcagni?

22 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes. Yes, I am  
23 satisfied.

24 THE COURT: Very well then.

25 Am I correct that you are offering to plead guilty

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1 because you are, in fact, guilty?

2 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, that's true.

3 THE COURT: Sir, if you wish to plead guilty, I'm  
4 going to ask you to tell me what you did, and as you can see,  
5 your answers will be in counsels' presence and your answers are  
6 being recorded on the record. I remind you you're still under  
7 oath, so if you answer falsely, your answers may later be used  
8 against you.

9 Do you understand, sir?

10 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I understand.

11 THE COURT: And do you still wish to plead guilty?

12 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

13 THE COURT: Tell me what you did, Mr. Trovias.

14 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I started -- I started --  
15 I assisted in a dark web market, as it's called, in 2016, and I  
16 started selling information, which I marketed as nonpublic  
17 information for the stock market. At times I received and sold  
18 nonpublic confidential business information about publicly  
19 traded companies on the dark web through encrypted messaging  
20 and email services.

21 THE COURT: On the dark web through encrypted  
22 messaging services, is that right, sir?

23 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

24 THE COURT: Go ahead.

25 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I believed this

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1 information was misappropriated and used this information for  
2 my own financial benefit. I also took steps to create a  
3 website through, through which I wanted -- my intention was to  
4 extract money to trick and scam these two people that I was  
5 working with. And the website was marketed as a website that  
6 would facilitate the exchange of inside information for  
7 payment.

8 I knew my conduct to be wrong and unlawful.

9 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

10 In terms of your selling the material nonpublic  
11 information, it was your understanding that people were going  
12 to use that to trade securities, is that right, sir?

13 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yeah, that's right.

14 THE COURT: When did that happen, sir?

15 THE DEFENDANT (in English): When?

16 THE COURT: Was it in 2016 and thereabouts?

17 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I started doing, doing  
18 this thing at the end of 2016. It was, I think, December 2016,  
19 I assisted with marketplace, dark web marketplace.

20 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

21 May I ask the government two things:

22 One, what is the venue requirement here?

23 And secondly, I'll ask you if there's anything further  
24 by way of allocution.

25 MR. THOMAS: Yes, your Honor.

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1           Venue is proper in this case because, during the  
2           course of the scheme, Mr. Trovias corresponded with individuals  
3           in the Southern District of New York and understood by him to  
4           be located in or around Manhattan.

5           THE COURT: That's correct, isn't it, sir?

6           THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes.

7           THE COURT: Thank you.

8           MR. THOMAS: And second, your Honor, no need to  
9           inquire of Mr. Trovias, but the government would proffer for  
10          the record that some of the securities that were subject to  
11          Mr. Trovias's scheme are those securities covered by Section  
12          1348, meaning that they are registered under Section 12 of the  
13          Securities Exchange Act.

14          THE COURT: Very well.

15          Anything further by way of allocution?

16          MR. THOMAS: No, your Honor.

17          THE COURT: Would the government please recite the  
18          elements it would have to prove if Mr. Trovias went to trial.

19          MR. THOMAS: Yes, your Honor.

20          Were Mr. Trovias to proceed to trial on Count One,  
21          which charges him under Title 18, Section 1348, the government  
22          would have to prove three elements:

23          First --

24          MR. CALCAGNI: I'm sorry, your Honor. Could we pause  
25          one second? We're having an issue with the interpretation

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1 equipment.

2 THE COURT: Of course. Thank you.

3 THE DEFENDANT (in English): No, I cannot hear.

4 Still cannot hear.

5 THE INTERPRETER: Just one minute, Judge.

6 THE COURT: If you want, you're welcome to sit over  
7 there.

8 THE INTERPRETER: Me, the interpreter?

9 THE COURT: Yes.

10 If that's all right with you too.

11 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, that would be  
12 better.

13 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Interpreter.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Counsel, would you like the government to  
16 start from securities registered under 12(a), etc.?

17 MR. CALCAGNI: I think if we back up to the beginning  
18 of the discussion about the elements.

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 May I ask the government to recite the elements the  
21 government would have to prove if Mr. Trovias went to trial.

22 MR. THOMAS: Yes, your Honor.

23 If Mr. Trovias proceeded to trial on Count One, which  
24 charges him under Title 18, Section 1348, the government would  
25 be required to prove three elements beyond a reasonable doubt:



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1 First, that Mr. Trovias executed a scheme or artifice  
2 either (a) to defraud a person, or (b) to obtain money or  
3 property by materially false and fraudulent pretenses,  
4 representations or promises;

5 Second, that Mr. Trovias knowingly and willfully  
6 participated in the scheme or artifice; and

7 Third, the scheme or artifice was connected to the  
8 purchase or sale of stock in a company whose securities were  
9 registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of  
10 1934 or was otherwise required to file reports under the  
11 Exchange Act.

12 THE COURT: And sir, do you understand that those are  
13 the elements that the government would have to prove if you  
14 went to trial in this case?

15 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Yes, I understand.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 Counsel, do you know of any valid legal defense that  
18 would prevail if Mr. Trovias went to trial?

19 MR. THOMAS: No, your Honor.

20 MR. CALCAGNI: No, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: And do you know of any reason why he  
22 should not plead guilty?

23 MR. CALCAGNI: No, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Very well then.

25 The plea is accepted.

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1           It's the finding of the Court in the case of the  
2           United States v. Apostolos Trovias that the defendant is fully  
3           competent and capable of entering an informed plea and that his  
4           plea of guilty is knowing and voluntary and is supported by an  
5           independent basis in fact containing each and every essential  
6           element of the offense.

7           My findings are based on Mr. Trovias's allocution and  
8           in addition, upon my observations of him here in court today.

9           The plea of not guilty is withdrawn. The plea of  
10          guilty to Count One is accepted and shall be entered. The  
11          defendant is now adjudged to be guilty of the offense.

12          Counsel, I understand that you wish to proceed  
13          directly to sentencing. Is that right?

14          MR. CALCAGNI: That's correct, your Honor.

15          THE COURT: Very well then.

16          Counsel, I have reviewed the documents before me,  
17          which, other than the plea agreement and the indictment,  
18          include the parties' respective letters, dated April 12, 2022.  
19          I find pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure  
20          32(c)(1)(A)(ii) that the information in the record allows the  
21          Court to meaningfully exercise its sentencing authority under  
22          18 U.S.C. Section 3553(a).

23          Within the papers before me are discussions of the  
24          offense conduct and of the history and characteristics of the  
25          defendant.

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1           Accordingly, we will proceed directly to sentencing.  
2           Counsel, would you like to speak on behalf of  
3           Mr. Trovias?

4           MR. CALCAGNI: Yes, your Honor. Briefly.

5           THE COURT: Yes, sir.

6           MR. CALCAGNI: And thank you.

7           THE COURT: You're welcome to go to the podium, use  
8           that microphone and take your mask off if you want.

9           MR. CALCAGNI: Thank you, your Honor. I think I can  
10          do it from here.

11          THE COURT: Yes, sir.

12          MR. CALCAGNI: First of all, thank you for  
13          accommodating us with these expedited proceedings. It's very  
14          much appreciated, you and your staff. Thank you.

15          THE COURT: Yes, sir. And Judge Keenan's staff.

16          MR. CALCAGNI: And Judge Keenan's staff.

17          Mr. Ryan, thank you.

18          I won't belabor the points that are set out in our  
19          sentencing memorandum of April 12, 2022, your Honor. I did  
20          want to emphasize that the 11 months' imprisonment that  
21          Mr. Trovias has already served, 10 months of which were spent  
22          in a Peruvian prison under conditions that can only be  
23          characterized as deplorable, but those 11 months in total are  
24          within the guideline range. At the agreed-upon offense level  
25          of 12, as we have discussed, that stipulated guideline range is

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1 10 to 16 months. And we'd ask, your Honor, that you credit  
2 Mr. Trovias for that period in custody in sentencing him to  
3 time served here.

4 I'll note that Mr. Trovias has accepted full  
5 responsibility for his conduct. He's demonstrated remorse. He  
6 surrendered to the jurisdiction of the United States in helping  
7 to facilitate his extradition here to the U.S., and the moment  
8 he was released from the Bureau of Prisons' quarantining, he  
9 immediately met with the government. He admitted his conduct.  
10 He truthfully answered all questions asked, and he agreed to  
11 plead guilty.

12 Should the Court sentence him to time served and allow  
13 for his release, he will return home to Greece. He'll secure a  
14 job, and he'll care for his debilitated father, who suffers  
15 from Parkinson's disease.

16 Given that he has no lawful status here in the U.S.  
17 and would be deportable upon release, we'd also request that  
18 your Honor waive any sentence of supervised release, which  
19 would clear the way for him to immediately return to his father  
20 and family in Greece.

21 I have nothing further, your Honor, although  
22 Mr. Trovias stands ready to answer any questions and address  
23 the Court directly at the right time.

24 THE COURT: Of course.

25 Sir, would you like to speak on your own behalf?

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1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

2 (Counsel and defendant conferred)

3 MR. CALCAGNI: Your Honor, Mr. Trovias has asked to  
4 approach the podium and the microphone. Would that be OK?

5 THE COURT: Gents, is it all right if he speaks from  
6 the podium --

7 THE MARSHAL: Sorry, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: -- and from that microphone?

9 THE MARSHAL: We prefer this one, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 THE MARSHAL: But we could do that, if that's what you  
12 want.

13 THE COURT: That would be great, if you wouldn't don't  
14 mind. Thank you, Mr. Marshal.

15 Perfect. Thank you. At least we have some muscle  
16 turning that thing around.

17 Yes, sir.

18 THE DEFENDANT (in English): I'm here in front of you  
19 today because I have failed. I have failed primarily myself  
20 and then the community that surrounds me, which is our world.

21 I was looking for shortcuts. I wanted to run without  
22 first knowing how to walk. And I'm walking right now, almost  
23 feeling like a child. I am learning stuff, thinking creatively  
24 and freely, and I am more interested in -- it fulfills me  
25 more -- solving burdens instead of creating them, creating

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1 solutions and enabling people. It's like I am playing; I am  
2 playing for real.

3 During the time that I was incarcerated in Peru, I got  
4 to know myself better and discovered, between other things,  
5 that I was lacking the required discipline in my life to set  
6 goals and work daily to achieve them. I have learnt that being  
7 consistent in what you do leads in getting results, and the  
8 effort that we put in -- day in, day out -- drive us to succeed  
9 in the pursuing of happiness.

10 As an ancient philosopher of Greece used to say,  
11 "Excellence is nothing but a habit." And I finally got the  
12 habit to believe -- believe in myself, believe in humans, and  
13 the reason behind our sometimes painful but nevertheless  
14 miraculous existence. I know what is important now. I know  
15 what is real, and I'm grateful to be conscious about that.

16 As I used to say to my co-inmates in Peru during the  
17 time of incarceration, in the morning I would say one more  
18 day -- "one more day that we are prisoners, one more day that  
19 we are alive"; and in the night, before the lockdown, "one day  
20 less that we are prisoners, one day less that we are alive."

21 I wanted to highlight these dualities -- black and  
22 white with good and bad -- that governs our life, and I wanted  
23 to incorporate in this speech to let you know that I'm a little  
24 wiser now.

25 Thank you for listening to me.

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1 THE COURT: Yes, sir. Thank you.

2 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Go back now?

3 THE COURT: Yes, sir. Thank you.

4 Thank you, Mr. Marshal.

5 Does the government wish to be heard?

6 MR. THOMAS: Yes, your Honor.

7 The government would emphasize for the Court's  
8 consideration a few points and facets of what is, I think, by  
9 all accounts, a rather unusual set of circumstances.

10 The first is notwithstanding the relatively modest  
11 dollar amounts involved, the conduct is nevertheless serious  
12 and worthy of a guidelines sentence, and that's true because  
13 Mr. Trovias engaged in a multiyear scheme that involved  
14 evolving fraud throughout its duration, taking advantage over  
15 time of new opportunities to perpetrate what was a steadfast  
16 commitment to getting money through lies and deceit.

17 The second important facet of the conduct that the  
18 Court ought to focus on is that, in many ways, Mr. Trovias is  
19 at the cutting edge of criminality and that he made use of  
20 modern tools, like cryptocurrencies, encrypted websites and  
21 messaging platforms, to make it hard for law enforcement or  
22 securities regulators to preserve the integrity of the market.  
23 And so all of those factors combined make it a case where the  
24 conduct is certainly worthy of a guidelines sentence.

25 All that being said, Mr. Trovias and, I think, his

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1 counsel are entirely correct that in many ways Mr. Trovias has  
2 very quickly and unusually acknowledged his wrongful conduct  
3 here. He did agree to waive extradition proceedings in Peru to  
4 hasten his arrival in the United States. And he did, when he  
5 came here, signal, even at his arraignment, to the court, in  
6 magistrate court, that he was prepared to acknowledge his  
7 responsibility. So the government certainly recognizes that  
8 those facets place him in an unusual category among defendants  
9 in this space.

10 For those reasons, the government encourages the Court  
11 to impose a guidelines sentence, and I'm happy to answer any  
12 questions the Court may have.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 Counsel, with respect to the nature and circumstances  
15 of the offense, certainly this is a serious offense and  
16 requires a serious sentence to promote respect for the law.  
17 Insider trading is an invidious crime and has the result of  
18 undermining the confidence in the integrity of the financial  
19 markets, which is very serious. As the government has pointed  
20 out, Mr. Trovias here took advantage of various technological  
21 methods of hiding his conduct and making it more difficult for  
22 securities regulators and law enforcement to detect. So it  
23 certainly is a serious crime.

24 In addition, I take into account the need for  
25 deterrence. I am persuaded that I don't need to worry about



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1 Mr. Trovias anymore, but general deterrence, particularly with  
2 respect to crimes attacking the financial markets, is very  
3 important. So I certainly take deterrence into account.

4 With respect to the history and characteristics of the  
5 defendant, up until this time, Mr. Trovias has been a  
6 law-abiding citizen; educated himself, lived with his family,  
7 certainly was a nonviolent person.

8 I also take into account his cooperation with law  
9 enforcement, his waiver of extradition, his immediate offer to  
10 accept responsibility for his crimes, and his intention to  
11 depart this country immediately to go home and take care of his  
12 father.

13 Considering all of those factors and the other  
14 sentencing factors, it is my intention to impose a sentence of  
15 time served.

16 Given Mr. Trovias's immigration status, it is not my  
17 intention to impose any period of supervised release.

18 It is my intention to so order the consent preliminary  
19 order of forfeiture/money judgment, and it is my intention to  
20 impose the mandatory \$100 special assessment.

21 Is there any reason such a sentence should not be  
22 imposed, counsel?

23 MR. THOMAS: No, your Honor.

24 MR. CALCAGNI: No, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Very well then.

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1 Mr. Trovias, you're sentenced, sir, to time served.

2 As I mentioned, there will not be a period of  
3 supervised release.

4 I must impose and do impose the forfeiture amount and  
5 the \$100 special assessment, and that should be paid promptly.

6 It's my duty to inform you, sir, that unless you've  
7 waived it, you have the right to appeal this sentence, and you  
8 might have the right to appeal *in forma pauperis*, which means  
9 as a poor person, with the waiver of certain fees and expenses.

10 Counsel, I am executing the forfeiture order as we sit  
11 here and executing an order requiring Mr. Trovias to be  
12 discharged from the custody of the marshals.

13 Is there anything else today, counsel?

14 MR. THOMAS: Not from the government, your Honor.  
15 Thank you.

16 THE COURT: What about Count Two?

17 MR. THOMAS: Oh, yes, there is something else, your  
18 Honor.

19 The government moves to dismiss all open counts.

20 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

21 Anything else, counsel?

22 MR. CALCAGNI: That is all, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Very well.

24 Mr. Trovias, go home and make your father proud of  
25 you.

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1 THE DEFENDANT (in English): Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Yes, sir. Good afternoon, sir.

3 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Marshal.

5 (Adjourned)

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,**

**Plaintiff,**

**-- against --**

**APOSTOLOS TROVIAS,**

**Defendant.**

**21 Civ. 5925 (ER)**

**ECF Case**

**FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO  
DEFENDANT APOSTOLOS TROVIAS**

The Securities and Exchange Commission having filed a Complaint and Defendant Apostolos Trovias having entered a general appearance; consented to the Court's jurisdiction over Defendant and the subject matter of this action; consented to entry of this Final Judgment; waived findings of fact and conclusions of law; and waived any right to appeal from this Final Judgment:

**I.**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5], by using any means or instrumentality of interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of any facility of any national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;

- (b) to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

## II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is liable for disgorgement of \$5,320, plus prejudgment interest of \$1,382.49; to be deemed satisfied by the criminal judgment (DE 18) and forfeiture order (DE 19) entered by the Court in *United States v. Trovias*, 21 Crim. 378 (JFK) (S.D.N.Y.).

## III.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, Defendant, his agents, servants, employees, and attorneys and other persons in active concert or participation with him who receive actual notice of the injunction by personal service or otherwise is permanently restrained and enjoined from establishing and/or operating any website that permits the offer, sale, or purchase of nonpublic information concerning the issuers of publicly traded securities.

**IV.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §523, the allegations in the complaint are true and admitted by Defendant, and further, any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or other amounts due by Defendant under this Final Judgment or any other judgment, order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Defendant of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §523(a)(19).

**V.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for the purposes of enforcing the terms of this Judgment.

**VI.**

There being no just reason for delay, pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Clerk is ordered to enter this Judgment forthwith and without further notice.

Dated: July 19, 2022



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
HON. EDGARDO RAMOS